of Customs Duty Outstanding is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Recovery of tax is a continuous process, involving the use of statutory provisions which include charging of interest, levy of penalty, and attachment and sale of movable and immovable properties. In respect of cases where stay orders against recovery have been passed by the appellate bodies, special measures are taken to file petitions for urgent hearing or for deciding the cases on priority. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are also regularly undertaken at various levels and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting recovery of the outstanding taxes.

Flouting of Rules by MNCs

1686. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Multi-National Companies are flouting rules of excise and customs;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is investigating customs exemption issue on life saving drugs; and

(c) the number of Indian Pharmaceutical Companies against whom cases of crores of rupees as excise and customs duties are pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.